

UFO SIGHTER

VOLUME FIVE
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EDITOR & PUBLISHER:
ALLEN H. GREENFIELD

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SIGHTER REVISING FORMAT

The UFO Sighter is revising its format. Changes include a more professional design for the magazine itself; new columns; and a revised staff. For further information see this issue's Editorial and Editor's Say.



At left is Allen H. Greenfield, Editor and Publisher of the UFO SIGHTER at his home in Atlanta, Georgia. At right is marquee at last year's UFO Congress. This year's Congress Delegate's Sessions will take place June 23, 24, 25 and 26, 1966.

EDITORIAL: WHAT CAN AN INDIVIDUAL DO?

The publishing of this magazine is an individual effort on the part of your editor. To be sure, I have had quite a bit of help over the years from various sources. But on the whole I have had to act on my own initiative.

I think it is safe to say that the UFO Sighter has improved with time. But it still falls considerably short of what I would like it to be. I would hope that in the near future, however, it will come up to a high level in the ranks of semi-professional publications. Starting with our next issue we will begin efforts to realize this goal.

Of course we are already working on such improvements, but starting with our Summer, 1966 issue we will in all likelihood conduct a concentrated program of improvement. We will attempt to maintain a high degree of editorial integrity and honesty, while at the same time we will work toward the highest possible intellectual and literary standards.

Still, we are stuck with an unanswered question: What can an individual do in the UFO field? Certainly, it might be considered audacious if I were to claim that I could "single-handedly" tackle the entire UFO problem, but nonetheless I feel that I must do something.

AND DO SOMETHING I SHALL! There are, I feel, those in the UFO field who would adamantly claim that the best thing I could do would be to back a large UFO organization, but on this I disagree. There has been no substantial progress in the UFO field over the years despite the existence of various groups and publications that I can see. So, why would it be wise to support such a group? To the contrary, it would seem that original and resourceful effort on my part and on the part of others is well indicated by the status quo. Something needs to be done or it is quite possible that total apathy will engulf the field, thus leading to "wild" speculations and stagnation. I would guess that people...even those who regard UFOs with utter seriousness...are getting fed up with continual disillusionment.

Granted, a solution to the UFO problem may be a long time in coming. Granted also, the UFO mystery is a tremendous enigma. We do not deny these factors. But we do feel that what action there has been to date has fallen short of its goals because it is off the beam in one way or another. We are not sure of this. Indeed, we are sure of very little in this fluid and chaotic field. But it does seem to apply: after all, we haven't solved the UFO mystery, have we?

There also seems to be a sore lack of communication between UFOlogy "leaders" and "rank and file members". What can be done to alleviate this problem?

Or, for that matter, what can be done to alleviate any of the problems we find ourselves faced with. As usual, I don't have the answer...but at least I acknowledge the existence of the problems, and seek a solution.

The new UFO Sighter format will, we hope, combine a serious and a straight-forward approach to the saucer enigma. We hope to include a regular column on a theory about UFOs worked out...and still being worked on...that should prove quite interesting. It is in line with some of the work that has been done by various researchers in the past and the present, but will,

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Editor, UFO Sighter:

After hearing of Mr. Earley's technical background, I had expected him to be a far more formidable adversary. However, much of his criticism misses the mark entirely, and actually tends towards outright distortion of the facts.

Yes, I concede that Richard Hall was promoted to "Assistant Director" of NICAP in the Dec.-Jan. 1963-4 issue of "The UFO Investigator." But I wasn't talking about that, was I? Furthermore, to say the office of "Acting Director" was something confined to intra-office discussion is utterly preposterous. The NICAP eight-year report, "The UFO Evidence," published in May, 1964, listed Hall as "Acting Director!" One construes this position as denoting Hall's assumption of all powers that formerly devolved upon Major Keyhoe, due to the latter's inability and/or unwillingness to fulfill his functions. Keyhoe himself bears out this statement, for even when he first became "Director" of NICAP, he said it was only a temporary position, which he would abdicate upon finding someone else to take the job.

May I ask when Hall was promoted? Neither Major Keyhoe or the NICAP Board of Governors ever officially announced Hall's appointment to such a post! Therefore, it was quite reasonable to assume that Hall took the position without the permission of anyone! I call that audacity, wouldn't anyone?

Mr. Earley tries to inject my recent promotion from Advertising Manager to Managing Editor of SAUCER NEWS into the discussion. I hardly think that it's relevant. Jim Moseley, in the March, 1965 issue of his magazine, formally announced that I had been appointed to this position. No one has ever said how Hall got his post!

Of course, Hall seems to have been put into place. In a recent issue of "The UFO Investigator," published since my article, "The Truth About NICAP," was written, Hall has been demoted to "Assistant Director." It was added, however, that he would still occasionally "act" for Major Keyhoe. And act he does! He runs the office, and apparently formulates and implements policy. All Major Keyhoe does these days is to make an occasional radio and television appearance and edit "The UFO Investigator," and not as well as he used to, I might say.

When one criticizes NICAP for certain shortcomings, the responsibility for those shortcomings must rest on its leadership. Since Hall appears to be the most powerful officer in NICAP, it is to him that I have addressed my criticisms. Furthermore, it is he, because of his position, who is responsible.

About the "space pancake" business, Earley seems to have ignored everything I said on the subject. I never denied that NICAP had analyzed the "pancake." My only argument was with Hall, for "clouding" the issue with totally false statements to the effect that NICAP would have nothing to do with the "pancake" or any other aspect of the case. What would I expect? Since NICAP proclaims itself an objective UFO investigative body, I would expect that they would acknowledge receipt of the "pancake" and affirm their intention to analyze it to the best of their ability, and to the limit of their resources. But we can hardly call NICAP "objective," can we?

Where does Earley think he got the right to determine who is or is not conforming to the Code of Ethics enacted at the 2nd Congress of Scientific UFOlogists? Neither he nor any other NICAP official has ever endorsed it! Further, despite Earley's protestations to the contrary, no one has yet succeeded in finding one erroneous item in my article. It consisted of information that was, to the best of my ability, truthful. Therefore, it is in accordance with the Code of Ethics.

Letter to the Editor (Continued from page 4)

A final note about my article: I think the reference to Hall's "pointed" finger should be disregarded. I wrote that item on the basis of the testimony of one of the witnesses, which was not, I learned later, corroborated by the others. I myself do not recall such a gesticulation on the part of Hall, although there was no doubt in the mind of the Congress delegation that he was angry.

As to Comella, I really ought to present a brief statement of my position on his views: I don't think he should be ignored. The only reason I made that statement in the Fall, 1965 "UFO Sighter" was to elicit some reaction from Erdmann as to why he uses so much space to attack Comella's position. Personally, I think Comella may be on to something. I don't know whether his UFO "framework" is totally accurate, but it may be partially true. For that reason, Comella's writings merit careful consideration by all UFO researchers.

EUGENE R STEINBERG
P. O. Box 87, Rugby Station
Brooklyn, New York 11203

UFO SIGHTER READER POLL

Please fill out this form and mail it to the UFO Sighter, 2875 Sequoyah Drive, N.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30327. If you don't want to tear your issue of the UFO Sighter, or if you need additional space, you may use a separate piece of paper.

I

- (1.) Have you been satisfied by the general format of this magazine in the past?
- (2.) What do you think of the changes announced in this issue?
- (3.) Has the UFO Sighter arrived in good condition in the past?
- (4.) What column(s) have you enjoyed most?
- (5.) Do you have any suggestions for improving the Sighter?

II

- (1.) If you were asked which UFO publication(s) you considered the most valuable, what would you say and why?
- (2.) If you were asked which UFO organization(s) you considered the most valuable, which would you say and why?
- (3.) What do you think of the annual Congress of Scientific UFologists at Cleveland?
- (4.) Have you any plans for attending the Cleveland convention this year?

III

- (1.) What do you think causes the UFO reports presently in the "unknown" category and why?
- (2.) Have you any comments on the relative importance of the UFO problem?
- (3.) Have you ever seen a UFO?

IV

- (1.) Please give your name, address and occupation:
- (2.) May we use this form in connection with possible future articles and research work?

EDITOR'S SAY

As I recall, it was while we were assembling our last issue that it occurred to me that Major Keyhoe might not be "overly thrilled" by our publication of his photo on our cover in connection with Mr. Steinberg's article on NICAP. I don't recall having said anything to the Major about publication at the time, though there was certainly nothing "below board" about the taking of the shot. As a matter of fact, Major Keyhoe and the others stood posing while I took not one, but two photos (neither of which were very good, photographically speaking, I might add). In any case the photo is, in connection with Steinberg's article, an historic document of sorts, and it could be argued that this alone morally justified publication. Nevertheless, it was rather thoughtless of me not to have gotten the Major's permission, and I wish to extend my apology to him if he feels that there has been any invasion of privacy.

We are in the process of bringing about what we hope will be great improvement in the UFO Sighter. We hope you will find the changes made to your liking, but in any case we urge you to write us and let us know your opinions of our efforts. One thing that we plan to do in the near future is to, as much as possible, bring our subscription list up-to-date. Generally speaking, we are initiating a policy of uniform mailing...possibly in manila envelopes to avoid some of the wear and tear of the mail. This, among other things, will probably prove expensive. We are therefore uping our rates to \$2.00 for four issues beginning on August 1st, 1966. Thereupon all new subscriptions and renewals will be \$2.00 for four issues (not, I think, a particularly extravagant cost). Now if your subscription will soon expire, or has already expired, it would probably be worth your while...if you want to continue receiving the Sighter...to renew between now and August 1st at the old rate (\$1.00 for four issues), and save yourself a dollar that you would have to add to renew on or after August 1st. One suggestion: go ahead and do it while you're thinking about it.

By the way, we are changing our letter policy somewhat, effective as of this issue. The changes are designed to insure faithful reproduction of the letter writer's ideas, and to avoid the accidental publishing of letters not meant for same. If you want to write a letter for us, you can simplify matters by using the following form: head your letter "Letters to the Editor Column", followed by a signed statement that "You have our permission to publish the following letter in the UFO Sighter 'Letters to the Editor Column'." If you have any restrictions on publication, also mention these. Then follow this with your letter for publication headed "The Editor, UFO Sighter:". If we find reason to edit your letter, you will hear from us prior to publication, getting your permission to make the necessary changes. If all this sounds rather involved to you, ask yourself if you would want hundreds of persons to read a letter with your name on it, yet saying things you never intended to say.

This issue of the UFO Sighter is a short one, and is rather transitional in nature. We nevertheless hope you enjoy it. We regret the lateness of our last issue, but have moved our "deadline" down approximately one month in order to make up for it. Our schedule now runs, roughly: February, May, August and November.

Our revamping has caused a change of our staff, and we wish to thank the outgoing "old staff" for all services rendered. I will remain as Editor, while Eugene Steinberg, who was added to our masthead last issue, will be the Associate Editor. Lucius Farish will be our new Contributing Editor, other staff announcements will be made as appropriate.